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O R A  
Seasonable Word  
T O T H E  
N A T I O N.

S H E W I N G  
The Cause, the Growth, the  
State, and the Cure of  
our present Distempers.

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## A Seasonable Word, &c.

**I** Do not write out of an itch of *Scribbling*, or to support a *Faction* my *Duty* bids me write. — Nor do I love *Hard words*, or *Many Plain*, and *Few*, suit all *Capacities* and *Leasures*. I would be *Read* by *all*, and *Understood* by *all*: for my *Businesse* extends to *all*. — Not to spend time in *Complements*, or *Apology*; The *Reader's Wisdom*, or the *Authors Weakness*, is not the *Question*. The *Nation* is in *Distress*, and every honest *English-man* must lend h s hand to save it. *Nay*, *That* must be done *Quickly* too, and *Figorously*; *Delay* is *Mortal*. Can any thing be more *Ridiculous*, then to stand *Formalizing*, in a *Case*, where 'tis impossible to be too *early*, or too *zealous*. The *event* of things takes up our thoughts, more then the *Reason* of them; what *News*, more than what *Remedy*: As if it concerned us rather to know, *whose Fools* and *Slaves* we shall be next, than to be such no longer. That which completes the *wonder*, and the *Overights*, is, That the *Miseries* we suffer, were before hand, as easily, to be *Fore-seen* and *Prevented*, as they are now to be *Felt*: and we are only to look *Backward*, to take a perfect measure of the *Future*, so obvious, and formal is the *Method*, that leads to our *Destruction*. If we are not in *Love* with *Beggery*, and *Bondage*; let us at last bethink our selves of *Freedom*, and from a due Enquiry into the *Rise*, the *Growth*, and *present State* of our *Calamities*, learn to be *wise*, and *Happy*, for the time to come.

It may be observed, that since *Church-men* dabled in *Politiques*, and *Statesmen* in *Divinity*, *Law* and *Religion* have been still subjected to the *Sword*: and in effect, *those same Excursions*, and *Adulterate mixtures*, are but the *workings* of a *Party* already in *motion* toward that end. He that designs a *Change* of *Government*, must begin by imposing a *Delusion* upon the *People*: and whatsoever is *Necessary* to his *Purpose*, must be *Accommodate* to their *Humour*. — The *Pulper*, by *false Glosses*, and *Puzzling distinctions*, under the doctrine of *Conditionate obedience*, suggesting *Liberty*, consens the *Multitude* into a *Rebellion*. *Oaths* and *Covenants*, are but like *Jugglers knots*, *Fast*, or *Loose*, as the *Priest* pleases — The weaker sort being thus prepared, and poyson'd, by a *Seditious Clergy*, 'tis then the *Statesman's* part to push those *Mutinous Inclinations* into *Action*: and to divide the *Cause* betwixt *Conscience*, and *Property*, the better to involve all *Interests* in the *Quarrel*. — Under the *Masque* of *Piety*, and *Publickness* of *Spirit*; of *Holy men*, and *Patriots*; the *Crafty* cheat the *Simple*; en-



gaging by thole specious pretences, the *Rash*, *mis-judging people*, (with *good Intentions*, but wanting *Care and Skill*) in *Sacrilege*, and *Treason*.

This was the very *Root*, and this hath been the *process* of our *Evils*. Under the *Notion* of *God's glory*, the *Safety*, and the *Honour* of the *King*: — the *Fundamental Lawes*, and *Freedom* of the *people*: — the *Privilege* of *Parliaments*, &c. the *Kingdom* was gulled into a *Compliance* with an *Ambitious*, and *Schismatical Faction*. The main *Pretence*, was the *Affertion* of the *Subjects Legal Rights*, against the *grand Prerogative*; and That, — directed only to the *Limitation* of an *Intended*, *Arbitrary Power*: — the *Regulation* of such and such *Mis-governments*, &c. — and all this — *Saving* their *Allegiance* to His *Sacred Majesty*; whose *Person*, *Crown*, and *Dignity*, they had so often, and so deeply sworn to maintain. — This was a *Bait* so *Popular*, it could not fail of drawing in a *Party*; and That produced a *warr*, — The *Formal Story* of the *Quarrel*, is little to my *Purpose*: the *Logique* of it, *Lesse*, — *How*, by the same *Authority* of *Text*, and *Law*, both *King* and *People*, could be *Justified*, one against th' other; I meddle not. Let it suffice, that after *6. years Conflict*, — a *vast profusion* of *Blood*, and *Treasure*, — The *King*, a *Prisoner*, — and his *whole party* scattered, and *disarmed*, the *Commons* found themselves dispos'd to end our *Troubles*; and passed a *vote* to *Treat* with his *Majesty* in order to a *settlement*. This met with little *opposition*, except from those, who having *Gorged* themselves already upon the *publique ruine*, were not yet satisfied, without their *Sovereigns Blood*; — The *death* of *Monarchy* it self; — and the *subjecting* of a *Tame*, and *Slavish People*, to a *Conventicle* of *Regicides*. There were not many of so deep a *Tincture*; but what these few could not effect by *number*, they did by *Force*. For, upon the *6th. of Decemb. 1648*. Sir *Hardresse Waller*, *Pride*, and *Hewson*, — *Seized*, and *imprisoned* 41. of the *Commons House*; — *Clapp'd Guards* upon all *passes* leading to it; — Some 160. more, were given in upon a *List* to those that kept the *Door*, with an *expresse direction* from several *Leading Members* to oppose their *entrance*; — a matter of 40. more withdrew, for fear of *violence*. Their *Crime* was only the carrying of a *Vote for Peace* (already mentioned) the day before. This *Action* was so *Enormous*, that the very *Contrivers* of it, were ashamed to own it: transferring that upon the *Army-Officers*, which was done by their own *appointment*. They passed however a *Formal disallowance* of the *violence*, and ordered their *discharge*, which yet the *Officers* refused (upon a *Combination* now most evident) — Observe this,

That, which in 48. they told us was an *Act* of the *Army-Officers*, in 59. they call a *Judgement* of *Parliament*; and they justify and continue that very *seclusion*, by a *Vote* of *Jan. 5. 59.* — Which they themselves *Condemned* and  
Discharged



*Discharged by several Orders in Dec. 48. The Particulars of these Transactions, are excellently delivered by Mr. Prynne, (the Honour of the age) in his true and perfect Narrative, as also, in the Declaration of the true state of the Secluded Members, and in the History of Independency, (two other choice pieces)*

Return we now, to the great *Test* of the *Spirits*, and *Designs* of the several *Parties*, and *Members* of the *House*, and from that *Judgement*, and *Discrimination* of *Persons*, and *Humours*, we may learn seasonably to provide against *After-claps*. This *Blow* brake the *House of Commons* into *Three Pieces*. One *Party*, — adhered to the *Vote*, — opposed the *Violence*; — Declared against it, — Claimed from time to time, their own and the *Peoples Rights*, — Pleaded the *Covenant*, and their *Declarations*, and stood it out. The *Second sort*, was not so well prepar'd for *Martyrdom*; a kind of *Barnacle*, neither *Fish*, nor *Flesh*. This was a *Party*, that *Flew off* at first, but soon retracted; — Heard again, and went along for *Company*; my *Charity* perswades me well, of diverse of them, and that they mixed, rather in hopes to moderate the *Rest*, then in *Design* to strengthen them: A *Party* rather weak, and *Passive*, than *Malicious*. But nothing can excuse those sons of *Belial*, the perjur'd *Remnant*; no, nor express them — Beside their *Oaths* and *Covenant*, they have above an hundred times, in *Printed Declarations*, renounced the very *Thought* of what they since have executed. Read the *Exact Collections*, *They* are (say they) so far from altering the *Fundamental Constitution*, and *Government* of this *Kingdom*, by *King*, *Lords*, and *Commons*. That we have only desired, that with the consent of the *King*, such *Powers* may be settled in the *Two Houses*, without which, we can have no *Assurance*, &c. These are the very words of their *Declaration*, April 17. 1646. published by the *House of Commons*, alone, toward the end of the war, and most remarkably entituled, — A *Declaration* of their *True Intentions*, concerning the *Antient Government* of the *Nation*, and securing the *People* against all *Arbitrary Government*. — (Let this *Quotation* serve for All, lest I exceed my *Limits*. Not to insist upon things known, and *publique*. — How faithfully these *People* have managed their *Original Trust*, — how strictly they have kept their *Oaths* and *Promises*, — how tenderly they have observed the *Laws*, and asserted our *Freedoms*; — how poor they have made themselves, to make us *Rich*; — how Graciously they have assumed the *Legislative power*, and then, how modestly they have exercised it: — In fine; — How *Free*, & happily we lived under their *Government*; till *Oliver* play'd *Rex* among them, and threw them out by a *Trick* of their own *Teaching*. This was in April 1653. It were worth the while, to enquire into the good they did us, during that 6 years *Session*, but that I leave to *Needham*. Nor shall I far examine the *Protectors Reign*; — by whose

*advice, — by what assistance, — or by what Laws he Ruled? — how many of our late Republicans forgate themselves, and swore Allegiance, to a single Person. How many things like Parliaments, he dispersed, — (for the Army has gotten a Jewish Trick, and will hardly leave it) — It is enough; at last, he Dyed. Dyed, — in Despight of Priests, and Poets, Goodwin, and Waller: the former telling him from Heaven, that he should scape that Fit, the Other telling us, — (so needlessly.) —*

*His Highness, having other things to think on, left his successor doubtfull, till (as they say) His Secretary, (Then, one of Durs, now) with Goodwin, (His Prophetique Confessor) Swore his son Richard into the Protectorship. But he (Good Gentleman) did not much hurt, but peaceably resigned to Fleetwood, and Disborough; (not a word of Sir Henry Vane, for he desires to be private) and They, quite at a Loss, for want of Brains and Cowage, call'd in the Fag-end of the old House, to their assistance: So that those Members, which Dyed, in April 53. came up again, upon the 7th. of May, 59. and acted as impetuously as ever: Till they were, once again unseated, by the Army; the 13. of Octob. last, and then, the Committee of Wallingford-house was invested with the Supreme Authority: ('Tis but a slippery Title, that of the Sword) This Change, gave General Monk occasion to shew his Charity to his Native Country; by whose Generosity, and Conduct, the Honest and Suffering Party was relieved, and the Phana-tique Army, dispersed, without Blood. Hereupon, the Souldjery tack'd about once again; — Lamented their Back slidings; and on the 26th. of Decemb. following, the Good-Old-Cause men, re-enthron'd themselves: more eager now, than formerly, against the Re-admission of the secluded Members. This barbarous, and Arbitrary proceeding, put the whole Nation upon a necessity of procuring a Free and Full Representative: to which end, they proposed Modestly, and Fairly, the Restoring of the Excluded Members, and filling up the House; or else, the Liberty of a New, and Legal choice. For bringing Letters to this purpose, Sir Robert Pye, and Major Fincher were imprisoned. This was an Insolence too grosse, to doe much Mischief, but to themselves. Are these the men, (the People cry'd) that put the King to death, only upon pretence of a Design, to erect and uphold in himself, an unlimited, and Tyrannical power, to Rule according to his will, and to overthrow the Rights, and Liberties of the People; Yea, to take away, and make void the Foundations thereof, and of all redresse, and Remedy of this Government, which by the Fundamental constitutions of this Kingdom, were reserved on the Peoples behalf, in the Right and power of FREQUENT AND SUCCESSIVE PARLIAMENTS? (these are the words of the charge) — That which was Treason in our Lawfull Prince, how coms it to be Law, now with these Fellows? They took*



took away the *Kings* life, for but *Intending, the very thing they Ait*; and we are to be *Hang'd*, for *Asking* only That, they *swore* they *Fought* for. No; — they are a *Pack of Cheats*; they *Murdered Him*, that they might *Rule themselves*. The *Plot* was grown so *Rank*, the *Commune-People* *smelt* it; and without more ado, *associated*, to free themselves, from an *Infamous, and perpetual Bondage*. Witnessse that *Union*, in their *Declarations*, both of *Demand*, and *Resolution*; against the *Equity* whereof, no man hath hitherto pretended the least *Objection*. — *The Supreme Trifle*; perceiving, an *Universal Application* to the *General*, in his *Passage*; and all, speaking the *same Sense*; Finding withall, that his *Excellence* *suspended*, till he might hear *Both Parties*; and *Conscious* to themselves, of no *Imaginable Reason* to oppose; Beside: — Seeing themselves *Declined*, and *Hated*; — *Nay*, and *Endangered*, by a *Peremptory Agreement* of the *Nation*; — They did, at last, most graciously descend to promise us a *full Representative*; but no *Secluded Members*, to be admitted, nor, in effect, any other then *Phanatiques*.

His Excellency, well weighing, what was Reasoned, *pro & con: made way for the Return of the Secluded Members*. This *Justice*, brake the neck of a *Design*, just then on *Foot*. This is the short on't, --- the *People* were to be held at *Gaze*, in expectation of a further satisfaction; till those *Troops* which the *Backside* had ordered to that purpose, should have scised all the considerable *Persons* of the *Kingdom*. *Nay*, they were impudent enough, to tempt the *General* himself into a *Complication* with them: But he was too discreet, not to distinguish where to observe, and where to leave them. In fine, *That providence*, which stills the raging of the *Sea*, and the madness of the *People*, hath put a *check* to their *Impetuou*, and *Brutish Fury*.

Next to our *Gratitude* to *Heaven*, let's have a *Care*, not to be wanting in point of *prudence* to our *Selves*. *Nothing* undoes us but *Security*. We see, who are our *Friends*, and who our *Enemies*; whom we may trust, and whom we must not. We have paid dear for our *Experience*, and, sure, we have a *Title* to the *Benefit* of it. We must look *Back*, and learn, from *Thence*, the manage of the *Future*.

It is a tedious while, this *Nation* ha's been toils'd betwixt two *Factions*; One in the *Army*, the Other in the *Council*; Both, well enough *Agreed* to destroy *Us*, but *Jealous* still, One of the Other, as *Don* sayes of *Ignatius*, concerning his *Competitor* in *Hell*, *He was content he should be damn'd, but loath he should govern*. That's all the *Quarrel*: the *Wizor* of *Religion*, is thrown aside long since. The *Conventicle* cheats the *Sould-jour* This day; and befalls upon the *Rump*, the next. In short, they do but watch one the other, at the *Publique Charge*; they may snarle where they



they please, but they bite none but *Us*, and at the worst forgive their *Fellow-Thieves* for robbing *Honest men*. This hath been their practice near these dozen years. Are we not yet convinc'd, that 'tis impossible it should be otherwise, while the same people Govern us, with the same *Aym*, and Bound up by no other Laws, than their Own Wills? I do not presse any Resistance, now; but, certainly, a Readinesse to protect *Honest men*, in Case of an Attempt, were not amisse. We see, how dirtily they have used the General, and how unworthily their Instruments have laboured the Army into a direct Tumult; And all this, in order to a New Violence upon the House. We see, what Faggling is used in the MILITIA: as foraging in false Lists, to cast the strength of the Nation into the hands of mean, and Factioned Persons. What Industry, to hold us still unsettled, by throwing in Impertinent, and dangerous Scruples, to divert (at the Fairest) if not disturb the long desired Peace we pray for. — He that ha's either Honor in his Blood, or Honesty in his Heart, is reproached with a King in his Belly. — Then, for the Qualifications, these goodly Squires would have thrust upon us, are they not pleasant? One Man of Forty shall be allowed to Vote, or sit, and the other 49. must call That a Free-Parliament, and swear, it Represents the People. — We are not so Blind yet, nor so Forgetfull, as not to see, and know, some Foxes, and some Ases, in the Medley; All are not Saints we call so. — We do remember, who they were that ruled in 48. and we are sensible, what they would do still, if they had Power. — We know, who brought in, who; but the Market's raised, our Heads will not off now at Fifty shillings a Hundred, as formerly. In fine, let the General, the secluded Members, and the Honest Souldiers, live long, happily, and beloved; and let the Rest take their Portion. I could only wish his Excellency had been a little civilier to Mr. Adilton, for, just as he had finished his Model of a Common-wealth, directing in these very terms, the Choyce men not addicted to a Single Person, as House of Lords, and the work is done. In come the secluded Members, and spyl his Project. To this admirable discovery, he subjoyns a suitable Proposition, in favour of the late sitting Members, and this is it; having premised the Abilities and Honesty, desirable in Ministers of State, he recommends the Rumpers to us as so Qualified, advises us to Quis that fond Opinion of success we Parliaments; and suffer the Persons then in Power, to perpetuate themselves under the name of a Grand, or General Counsell, and to rule us, and our Heirs for ever. — It were great pitty these Gentlemen should lose their Longings: One word, and I have done. We live in daily Expectation of Writs for another Session, if they leave us as free, as they found us, 'tis well: if not, 'tis but to turn the Tables, and try their menage of a Losing Game.

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